

MRS. WILLIAM H. TAFT



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Wife of the Republican Candidate for President.

BETSY ROSS IS A FAKE.

PHILADELPHIAN DISCREDITS THE FLAG STORY.

Prize Historical Idol Shattered by Investigation—Her House Declared Unworthy of Place in Fame's List.

Philadelphia.—Poor old Betsy Ross! down she goes into the limbo of fakes with Barbara Fritchie, who didn't wave the flag in Frederick; George Washington's hatchet, his prayer at Valley Forge, and other notable national fetiches.

After Philadelphia has for years bowed the knee to the legend that in the quaint little wooden house at 239 Arch street Betsy Ross designed and made the first flag; after thousands of patriotic citizens had contributed a dime each to buy it, and hundreds of thousands of children have made pilgrimages to it, it has been offered to the government as a national gift. The government turned it down.

And now the historical sites committee of founder's week has turned down Betsy and the house finally. Neither of them can have a look in on the festivities because both, says the committee, are fakes. The school book story is down and out.

Nothing has so shocked Philadelphia since it was definitely discovered by the Pennsylvania Historical society that the Liberty bell wasn't cracked while peeling out the news of freedom at all, but while it was discreetly tolling for the death of Chief Justice Marshall.

Officials of the Betsy Ross association, which superintended the purchase of the building, had made great plans to have it figure largely in the festivities. They were horrified the other day when the committee announced that Betsy and the house were really a myth.

It was the hand of William J. Campbell, who in the absence of Superintendent of Schools Martin G. Brumbaugh presided at the meeting of the committee which had gathered to mark the places of historical interest in Philadelphia, which delivered the blow. His report to the committee was curt but tense. It read: "Where Betsy Ross did not design the American flag. The story is a fake, and there is positively no evidence in its favor."

"There never was the slightest excuse for the Betsy Ross fake," declared Mr. Campbell later. "The stories which you find in the school books about this imaginary heroine are all pure rot, and it is to the everlasting disgrace of America that the fiction has been nourished for so many years. I have given the traditions most careful study, and find that the story is a lie from beginning to end. The only foundation whatever for the yarn is that there was a young woman named Betsy Ross, who took in plain sewing for a livelihood and who lived in a house, now known as the first American flag house, at 239 Arch street.

"As a matter of fact, Betsy Ross was no more or less than an ordinary seamstress who would have been fired with about the same amount of patriotic zeal in sewing Old Glory as she would have found in darning a pair of socks. She never had any interview with George Washington, and the pictures painted showing the father of the country beaming over the work of the handsome young heroine of the flag is one gross libel on the truth."

Immediately the cudgels began to fly. President Adam H. Fetterolf of Girard college, a director of the Flag-house association, took first whack at the committee.

"I have rested my confidence in the title of Betsy Ross as the maker and of her house as the birthplace of Old Glory upon the existence of the whole common people's faith and belief, a belief which until now has been practically universal and unquestioned.

"We put the whole burden of proof upon those who attack the title of Betsy Ross. They must produce proof that the people, teachers, and school books are erroneous. They must prove that the lie was invented, why it was invented, who invented it, how it spread and became part of history. They must produce the real history of the flag. Who designed it, and who made it.

"By the same method these iconoclasts eliminate Shakespeare and guess at Bacon, eliminate Washington's cherry tree, eliminate Key from the 'Star Spangled Banner.' Washington at prayer at Valley Forge, William Tell, Damon and Pythias, and Moses in the bullrushes.

"The Betsy Ross house is a shrine. This is an outrage."

GREASE BOOTS WITH AMBERGRIS

Product Valued at \$20,000 Wasted by Sailors on Ship.

San Francisco.—Greasing masts, sea boots and oilskins with ambergris, valued at approximately \$400 a pound, sailors on the British bark Antiope wasted about \$20,000 worth of the product, unaware of its value.

John Mathieson, master of the vessel, now learns that he let a fortune slip through his fingers. A small part of the "grease" had been saved and this was identified by an Oakland druggist as ambergris.

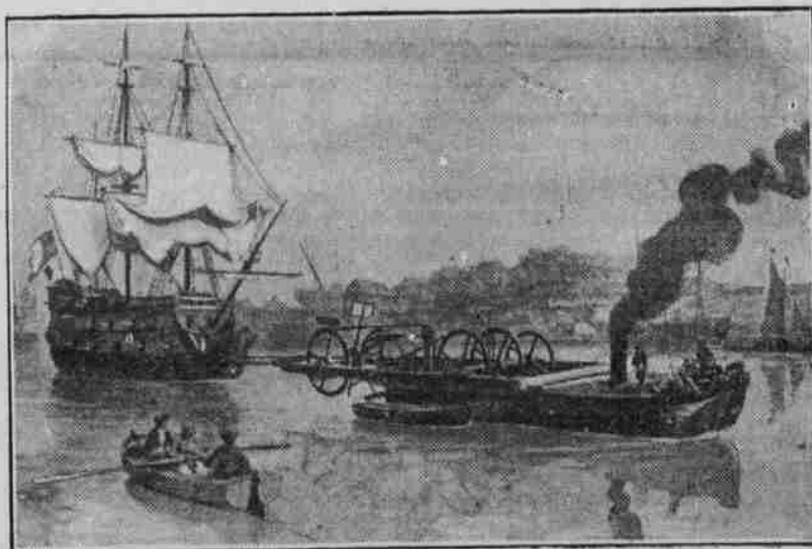
The Antiope reached here from Newcastle, Australia, a few days ago. On the way up, in latitude 20 degrees south, a large quantity of "grease" was seen floating on the ocean, and, a calm prevailing, the men managed to scoop up several bucketfuls.

The "grease" was found excellent, and it was used for slushing down the masts, the balance being used by the men on their oilskins and boots. The captain says much more of the material could have been collected, but thought the amount picked up by the men was enough.

Coughs Up Old Tack.

Warren, Pa.—Freda, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Brown of Forest street, coughed up a tack in a violent fit of coughing. The child swallowed the tack three years ago. It was black from oxidation. The child had been given up as a hopeless case of tuberculosis. She has not had a coughing fit since.

EVOLUTION OF THE STEAMSHIP



Jonathan Hulls' steam tug is generally regarded as the father of the stern-wheeler. It was in 1736 that Jonathan Hulls, a yeoman of Gloucestershire, England, patented a steam tug that was tried the following year. The tug had a single-acting steam cylinder, 30 inches in diameter, which in its inward stroke lifted a weight equal to one-half of its effective pull. The energy of this weight in its descent during the return stroke gave the engine a double action and the reciprocating motion of the piston gave continuous rotation by a ratchet gear to a paddle wheel at the stern.

Case of Shocking Neglect.

Friend—What has become of Celestine, your maid?

Mrs. Snoblotts—I had to discharge her. She had no consideration for Fido.

Friend—Why, I always thought she took the most tender care of the pet.

Mrs. Snoblotts—So did I till I found she was using her own comb on him without first sterilizing it.

MRS. FRANK STROEBE



A Remarkable Recovery.

Mrs. Frank Stroebe, R. F. D. 1, Appleton, Wis., writes: "I began using Peruna a few months ago, when my health and strength were all gone, and I was nothing but a nervous wreck, could not sleep, eat or rest properly, and felt no desire to live. Peruna made me look at life in a different light, as I began to regain my lost strength.

"I certainly think Peruna is without a rival as a tonic and strength builder."



Libby's Cooked Corned Beef

There's a big difference between just corned beef—the kind sold in bulk—and Libby's Cooked Corned Beef. The difference is in the taste, quality of meat and natural flavor.

Every fiber of the meat of Libby's Cooked Corned Beef is evenly and mildly cured, cooked scientifically and carefully packed in Libby's Great White Kitchen

It forms an appetizing dish, rich in food value and makes a summer meal that satisfies.

For Quick Serving:— Libby's Cooked Corned Beef, cut into thin slices. Arrange on a platter and garnish with Libby's Chow Chow. A tempting dish for luncheon, dinner, supper



Write for free booklet—'How to Make Good Things to Eat.'

Insist on Libby's at your dealers.

Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago